

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 9

Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Provasnik, S., Kena, G., Dinkes, R., KewalRamani, A., and Kemp, J. (2008). *The Condition of Education 2008* (NCES 2008-031). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

Undergraduate Education

Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

Women are projected to make up 57 percent of undergraduate enrollment in 2008.

Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions has generally increased since 1970. This increase has been accompanied by changes in the proportions of students who are female, students who attend full time, students who attend 4-year institutions, and students who attend public institutions. Overall enrollment is projected to reach 15.6 million students in 2008 and 17.0 million in 2017 (see supplemental table 9-1). The number of students enrolled part and full time, the number at 2- and 4-year institutions, the number at public and private institutions, and the number of male and female undergraduates are all projected to reach a new high each year from 2007 to 2017.

From 1970 to 2006, women’s undergraduate enrollment increased over three times as fast as men’s, surpassing men’s enrollment in 1978. In this period, women’s enrollment rose from 3.2 to 8.7 million (an increase of 178 percent), while men’s rose from 4.3 to 6.5 million (an increase of 53 percent). From 2007 to 2017, both men’s and women’s undergraduate enrollments are projected to increase, with women maintaining 57 percent of total enrollment.

Though full-time enrollment was higher than part-time enrollment from 1970 to 2006, part-time enrollment increased over five times as fast as full-time enrollment in the 1970s (from 28 to 40 percent), before stabilizing from 1980 to 1999. From 2000 to 2006, full-time enrollment grew almost three times as fast as part-time enrollment, from 60 to 63 percent, where it is expected to remain from 2007 to 2017.

Undergraduate enrollment has been larger at 4-year institutions than at 2-year institutions since 1970, yet 2-year enrollment increased more rapidly than 4-year enrollment in the 1970s (from 31 to 42 percent), before leveling off from 1980 to 1999. From 2000 to 2006, 4-year enrollment grew over twice as fast as 2-year enrollment, from 55 to 57 percent, where it is expected to remain from 2007 to 2017.

Enrollment at public institutions has been higher than at private institutions from 1970 to 2006. Public enrollment increased almost four times as fast as private enrollment in the 1970s (from 76 to 80 percent), before stabilizing from 1980 to 1999. From 2000 to 2006, private enrollment grew over twice as fast as public enrollment (from 20 to 22 percent). Public enrollment is expected to remain at 78 percent from 2007 to 2017.

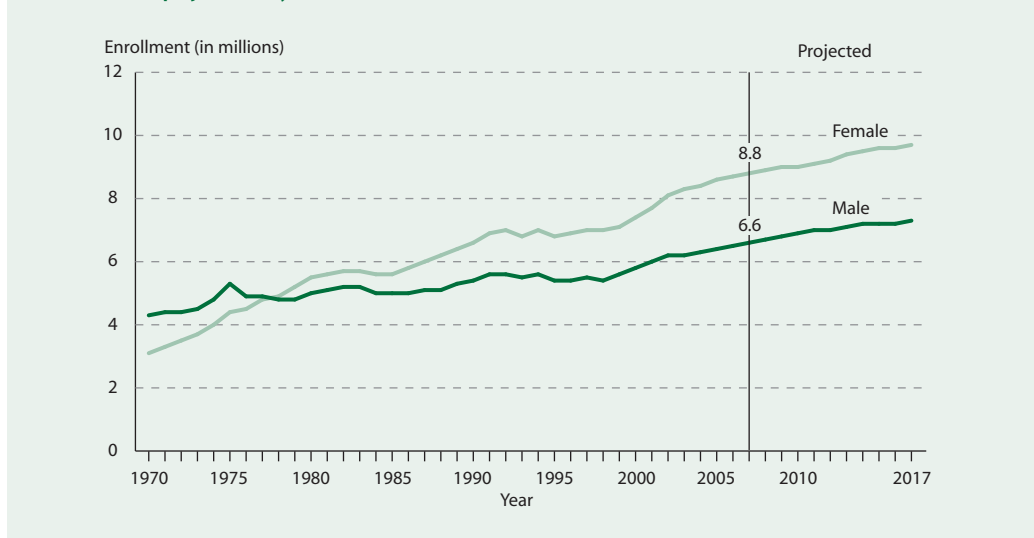
NOTE: Projections are based on data through 2006 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. For more information, see NCES 2008-078. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. For more information, see NCES 2001-083, appendix E. See supplemental note 3 for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See supplemental note 9 for more information about the classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 196, and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008-078), table 18, data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), “Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities” surveys, 1970–1985, and 1986–2006 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, “Fall Enrollment Survey” (IPEDS-EF:86–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 3, 9
Supplemental Table 9-1



UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT: Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions with projections, by sex: Fall 1970–2017



Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

Table 9-1. Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions with projections, by sex, attendance status, and level and control of institution: Fall 1970–2017

[In thousands]									
Fall of year	Total	Sex		Attendance status		Level of institution		Control of institution	
		Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	4-year	2-year	Public	Private
1970	7,376	4,254	3,122	5,280	2,096	5,057	2,319	5,628	1,748
1971	7,743	4,418	3,325	5,512	2,231	5,164	2,579	6,007	1,736
1972	7,941	4,429	3,512	5,488	2,453	5,185	2,756	6,223	1,718
1973	8,261	4,538	3,723	5,580	2,681	5,249	3,012	6,522	1,739
1974	8,798	4,765	4,033	5,726	3,072	5,394	3,404	7,031	1,767
1975	9,679	5,257	4,422	6,169	3,510	5,709	3,970	7,826	1,853
1976	9,429	4,902	4,527	6,030	3,399	5,546	3,883	7,617	1,812
1977	9,717	4,897	4,820	6,094	3,623	5,674	4,043	7,843	1,874
1978	9,691	4,766	4,925	5,967	3,724	5,663	4,028	7,786	1,905
1979	9,998	4,821	5,178	6,080	3,919	5,781	4,217	8,046	1,951
1980	10,475	5,000	5,475	6,362	4,113	5,948	4,526	8,441	2,033
1981	10,755	5,109	5,646	6,449	4,306	6,039	4,716	8,648	2,106
1982	10,825	5,170	5,655	6,484	4,341	6,053	4,772	8,713	2,112
1983	10,846	5,158	5,688	6,514	4,332	6,123	4,723	8,697	2,149
1984	10,618	5,007	5,611	6,348	4,270	6,087	4,531	8,493	2,125
1985	10,597	4,962	5,635	6,320	4,277	6,066	4,531	8,477	2,120
1986	10,798	5,018	5,780	6,352	4,446	6,118	4,680	8,661	2,137
1987	11,046	5,068	5,978	6,463	4,584	6,270	4,776	8,919	2,128
1988	11,317	5,138	6,179	6,642	4,674	6,441	4,875	9,103	2,213
1989	11,743	5,311	6,432	6,841	4,902	6,592	5,151	9,488	2,255
1990	11,959	5,380	6,579	6,976	4,983	6,719	5,240	9,710	2,250
1991	12,439	5,571	6,868	7,221	5,218	6,787	5,652	10,148	2,291
1992	12,537	5,582	6,954	7,243	5,293	6,814	5,722	10,216	2,320
1993	12,324	5,484	6,840	7,179	5,144	6,758	5,566	10,012	2,312
1994	12,538	5,583	6,955	7,244	5,293	7,008	5,530	10,216	2,321
1995	12,232	5,401	6,831	7,145	5,086	6,739	5,493	9,904	2,328
1996	12,327	5,421	6,906	7,299	5,028	6,764	5,563	9,935	2,392
1997	12,451	5,469	6,982	7,419	5,032	6,845	5,606	10,007	2,443
1998	12,437	5,446	6,991	7,539	4,898	6,948	5,489	9,950	2,487
1999	12,681	5,559	7,122	7,735	4,946	7,089	5,593	10,110	2,571
2000	13,155	5,778	7,377	7,923	5,232	7,207	5,948	10,539	2,616
2001	13,716	6,004	7,711	8,328	5,388	7,465	6,251	10,986	2,730
2002	14,257	6,192	8,065	8,734	5,523	7,728	6,529	11,433	2,824
2003	14,480	6,227	8,253	9,045	5,435	7,987	6,493	11,523	2,957
2004	14,781	6,340	8,441	9,284	5,496	8,235	6,546	11,651	3,130
2005	14,964	6,409	8,555	9,446	5,518	8,476	6,488	11,698	3,266
2006	15,184	6,514	8,671	9,571	5,613	8,666	6,519	11,847	3,337

See notes at end of table.

Past and Projected Undergraduate Enrollments

Table 9-1. Total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions with projections, by sex, attendance status, and level and control of institution: Fall 1970–2017—Continued

[In thousands]									
Fall of year	Total	Sex		Attendance status		Level of institution		Control of institution	
		Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	4-year	2-year	Public	Private
Projected¹									
2007	15,366	6,615	8,752	9,690	5,677	8,670	6,696	12,022	3,344
2008	15,571	6,719	8,852	9,836	5,735	8,793	6,778	12,201	3,369
2009	15,770	6,816	8,954	9,975	5,795	8,914	6,856	12,378	3,391
2010	15,939	6,895	9,044	10,090	5,849	9,024	6,915	12,507	3,432
2011	16,106	6,971	9,136	10,195	5,911	9,127	6,979	12,636	3,470
2012	16,273	7,039	9,234	10,295	5,978	9,225	7,049	12,766	3,507
2013	16,457	7,105	9,352	10,408	6,050	9,328	7,129	12,911	3,546
2014	16,628	7,161	9,467	10,510	6,118	9,419	7,208	13,046	3,582
2015	16,755	7,195	9,560	10,584	6,171	9,485	7,270	13,148	3,608
2016	16,881	7,232	9,649	10,657	6,224	9,549	7,332	13,248	3,633
2017	17,022	7,281	9,741	10,737	6,285	9,617	7,405	13,362	3,660

¹ Projections based on data through 2006 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. See NCES 2008–078 for more information on projections.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See *supplemental note 9* for more information about the classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008–022), tables 180 and 196, and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008–078), tables 16, 18, and 19, data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), “Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities” surveys, 1970–1985, and 1986–2006 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, “Fall Enrollment Survey” (IPEDS-EF:86–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2007.